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June 9, '76

Dear Mr. Weisberg—

Here are some reactions to Robert D. Morrow's Betrayal, probably more than you looked for, but I think the book is an important effort. The author has supplied information to Church's Committee and has offered to testify in secret session before a gov. committee, supplying facts that could not be included in the book.

I have no idea what other assassination specialists think — would be interested.

Sorry I can't type at present Time.

Robert D. Morrow, Betrayal, Chicago, Henry Regnery Co., 1976.

This book has two major sections: the account of the dangerous and important mission carried out by the author: his flight (David Ferrie the pilot) into the Camaguey hills of Cuba on the day of The Bay of Pigs to record unusual pulse transmissions in order to determine if they were were the kind used to give inertial guidance directions to space vehicles and ballistic missiles. This whole first section historically important, with its inside account from the CIA point of view - of the struggle between the Kennedy brothers and the CIA (at least the anti-Castro faction of the CIA), and of the Bay of Pigs, Mario Kohly, the counterfeiting of Cuban currency.

The quality and authenticity of the book, however, slips into the dubious as Clay Shaw is brought in, a totally unreal, unrecognizable Clay Shaw. And my doubts, at least, pyramided into the conviction that the material

was fraudulent as the author purports to unfold the mystery of the Dallas assassination.

I get the feeling of "Now that Clay Shaw (and others) is dead, we can say he was the Chief Plotter of the JFK assassination". Clay Shaw, a decent man who admired President Kennedy and voted for him, and would never conceivably want to murder him, is here depicted as a kind of Mephistopheles with such feelings ascribed to him as

78 "If Shaw had his way, the brothers Kennedy would be drawn and quartered"

79 "With Characters like Shaw around, anything can happen"
(If Pres. Kennedy sits on that missile information, he won't live out his first term)

63 "Kendricks" (CIA associate of Gen. Charles Cabell) muttered "Shaw and his group are damn fools, They're always playing with fire" (they were supposed to have rigged a Comanche plane used by Morrow & other CIA people with plastic explosive)

90 Cabell says - Some of the Cuban extremists and our own right-wingers - the Minuteman types - now run with Shaw in New Orleans. Dave Ferrie, who's supposed to be under our direct control, is now operating closely with Shaw's crew"

100 Charles Cabell and "Ed Kendricks" worry that "Shaw and that bunch of hot-headed Cubans and right wing extremists ... will lose their heads and retaliate" against the Kennedys who "have been thwarting them at every turn."

101 "Ed Kendricks" says "Shaw has been informed that the missiles are still in Cuba. As expected, his reaction was pretty violent, but I don't think he'll do anything rash as long as he still has hopes for the counterfeiting project"

105 Shaw decides that Kennedy must be assassinated so they can 'get' Castro

140 Shaw: "Thank God Kendricks & Kohly & the Secret Service

Morrow all wrong about Ruby, too, I think. Of course Ruby was in gun-running & narcotics probably, whatever Ruby's role on Nov. 22, I don't think he knew Pres. K. was to be assassinated.

don't know what we've been planning down here. Start the machinery ticking. We haven't got anything else left."

(thus Kendricks (CIA), Kohly, & Secret Service come out innocent)

So much for this phony Clay Shaw and the alleged motivation for the JFK assassination. In Shaw's alleged "Group", Guy Banister is second in command, and Jack Ruby, an active gun runner, narcotics importer, is associated.

The author and Dave Ferrie go to Athens to buy a lot of guns, Ruby acting as middleman. In Paris Morrow picks up a package from "Harvey" containing reports from Lee Harvey Oswald's 'double', Bill Gemelo, also in Russia.

(I think Oswald was an American agent while in Russia, but such evidence as Morrow presents seems spurious)

Morrow is given job of creating counterfeit Cuban money, is arrested by Secret Service on RFK orders.

He learns from close associates (?) how the assassination was carried out and decides to tell because misguided individuals like Clay Shaw and his group are destroying credibility of U.S. intelligence operations.

I find it suspicious that the book comes out only after Shaw and others close to the matter are conveniently dead:

Shaw	Gen Charles Cabell	Guy Banister
Ruby	"Ed Kendricks"	Hugh F. Ward
Ferrie	Mario Kohly	Perry Raymond Russo
Oswald		Rose Cherami

Morrow's reconstruction of the assassination is elaborate - all the known incidents are accounted for (almost all) It's a carefully engineered job and seems to me deliberately plotted to appeal to the major assassination 'Critics' and investigators. It takes over their own hypotheses. The author seems to me to "protest too much" as to the fraca-

Of course Shaw was a contract man with CIA & a kind of front man for the murky CMC & Permindex. He probably hated it.

bility of shots from the grassy Knoll. He calls it (p.204) "firing at near point blank range." "The view through Hart's scope, as the long blue limousine rounded the corner at Elm was breathtaking. The image was as large as if he were sitting on the hood" (p.205) and "With the scope, the range was now almost point blank. Hart had a bead on the President's Temple, and there was no way 206-7 he could miss, even if the scope was off a degree or two".

(This is really loading the dice, not objective. There's nothing "point blank" about a grassy Knoll shot in my opinion. Both throat and temple shots would be difficult, with clear danger of hitting other occupants of the limousine.)

Another important element in Morrow's scenario is Oswald's Cuban look-alike "William Gemelo". This dovetails with the theory, held by most of the Critics, of the "Second Oswald". Ruby directs Gemelo, whose assignment is to call attention to Oswald in the weeks before the assassination. Gemelo attends Fenie's party in Sept., visits Sylvia Odio, turns up at the Selective Service Bureau in Austin, makes a nuisance of himself at the Sports Drome Rifle Range, shows at the Lincoln-Mercury Auto Sales, is seen in the Carousel with Ruby, stops at the Wentworth-Hunter (whatever its name) furniture shop along with Rose Cheramie & a couple of borrowed children, & finally shoots a rifle from the 6th floor window of TSBD and later shoots Tippit. (also Dial Ryder incident.)

I find it hard - impossible - to swallow the idea of Gemelo being such a dead ringer for Oswald that witnesses all identify him as Oswald. Only identical twins look that much alike.

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Some Assorted Mistakes in the book

96 Author says Oswald had to slash his wrists and act like a maniac to get the girl and baby out of Russia

108 "Hidell" is incorrectly spelled with one "l" throughout

118 Author says Banister told Oswald that Shaw had arranged for him to distribute literature at the entrance to the Trade Mart. He told Oswald that his efforts had resulted in the addition of many names to their list of left-wing enemies
(I doubt this about getting many names)

122 Author says Ferrie arranged a party for Perry Raymond Russo in order to develop an outside witness who could subsequently tie Oswald directly to the assassination, got Russo drunk, then had Ferrie and Shaw discuss plans for assassinating the President.
(Ferrie didn't give the party for Russo. Russo seems to me to have been acting as an informal 'lookout' - he was down on the street a lot. Nor did Ferrie give the party to develop an outside witness. Russo wasn't expected to talk. I don't believe Russo got drunk.)

154 Oswald spotted a "room for rent" sign at Mrs. Bledsoe's.
(In view of the fact that Mrs. Bledsoe's son knew David Ferrie, I doubt that Oswald stayed there just spontaneously)

159 Ruth Paine's visit with her attorney regarding her impending divorce (The Paines weren't really planning to divorce)

165 Acc. to author, Ruby thought what incredible luck that Oswald got a job at the Depository. He'd planned for Oswald to get a job at airport where assassination would take place, but realized Dealey Plaza was a much better location for it.
175 Ruby's choice of Dealey Plaza for the operation -
(oh!?)

165 Oswald's assignment had been to fire some stray shots to frighten the General (Walker)
(No - Oswald's assignment was to try to kill him)

170 Rose Cherni (should be Rose Cheramie)

178 Ct Sports Drome Firing Range Gerald asks Howard Price to fire a few rounds. Price doesn't.
(Price did ... for the real Oswald, I think)

181 Author says: on Sat. Nov 16 Oswald informs Dallas FBI about assassination plans, is interrogated for four hours
(Wasn't that date Oswald left a note for Hosty with the receptionist at Dallas FBI and then left - no 4-hour interrogation. Also I don't believe Oswald knew there were any plans to assassinate Kennedy)

199 Oswald glad, Morrow says, to be seen off 5th floor at 11:50 AM Nov. 22 when both elevators descend.
(Actually Oswald shouted to the men to - didn't he say I wanted to go to 6th floor? Can't find it at the moment)

200 Author has Jack Ruby & Cuban Carlos Rigel who was carrying a rifle-long tool chest get in, onto the roof (after picking a lock) of the Criminal Courts Building, and then out again after the assassination without being questioned although the place was swarming with Deputy Sheriffs and Dep. Sheriff Harry Weatherford was, according to Penn Jones, on the roof during the assass.
(Ruby was well enough known to have been recognized and remembered)

→ 200 Acc to Josiah Thompson (6 Seconds - note p.131) the roof parapet
→ on Crim. Courts Bldg. was 15 feet high," making a shot from there almost impossible. Yet Morrow has Ruby & Rigel planning to keep below the parapets so they'd be out of sight; also "glancing quickly over the top of the parapet," "ducked back down" & (p.202) "Resting his arm lightly on the parapet" Rigel aimed rifle.

201 Author says Bannister walks across the Triple Overpass to the pergolas (The police probably wouldn't have let him at that time - around noon I think)

Bannister suggests that if the two men on Grassy Knoll have to flee and cannot get away in the Rambler, they could cross the Triple Overpass and reach his Ford parked at Union Terminal lot

(but how could a Cuban and another Strange man cross the Triple Overpass from the grassy knoll right after the shooting from the grassy knoll and get away with it?)

205 Lee Bowers would probably have seen the rifle had one of the two men carried one.

204 Author says Guy Bannister was standing less than 100 ft. in front of Navarro and Hunt (behind stockade fence) and even closer to Abraham Zapruder.

(Photos don't bear this out. If he was one of the two men near Emmett Hudson, he'd have been recognized before now)

200 Author says - the clip on the 6.5 Mannlicher was fully loaded. Then contradicts himself - p. 204 "He (Gemelo) was to reload and fire again... and p. 205 "... he jerked the bolt back, ejecting the empty shell, and slammed a new round into the chamber".

207 Navarro and Hunt (grassy knoll team) jump into the Rambler and head toward the Pacific Avenue entrance to the lot

(I think the author means Houston St entrance. Oswald reaches the edge of the ramp area of TSBD just as Rambler pulled up.)

(How could this Rambler get out of the parking lot, pick up a man from rear of TSBD and get away without being observed? Also the station wagon remained in place. Holland and others observed mud on the bumper)

211 Acc. to author, the Nash Rambler, driven by Navarro, was carrying Hart, Banister & Rigel when it stopped beside grassy slope to pick up Oswald's "twin", Gemelo.

(but Roger Craig reported seeing only the driver of car)

213 Lee Harvey Oswald finds time after the assassination and before reaching his rooming house to walk two blocks, after leaving Whaley's cab, to his old Neely St. address and to dig up his Smith & Wesson .38 caliber Cobra and its cartridges — apparently unseen.

(Yet Moran tells how Gemelo, impersonating Oswald, tells Mrs. Wentworth on Nov 8 "I'm trying to get a firing pin installed in my .38 Smith & Wesson revolver," the implication being that he has the revolver with him

(Perhaps just an inquiry. ↑ My real objection to this digging up the Smith & Wesson is that there was no time to do it then)

177 Acc. to author, JFK shot in throat by a fragmentation bullet from a 7.35 Mannlicher.

(the throat wound was a small one. 3 mm. or less in diameter. A fragmentation bullet from this size rifle would have made a much larger wound. Also Parkland doctors would have noticed the bullet fragments in throat. X-rays show a few metal particles in the neck but nothing that would account for a large fragmentation bullet)

I find this whole reconstruction a fraud and probably put together by someone more familiar with the case than this Moran would have been. As something of a hero, Moran makes an attractive apparent author. I think this represents an attempt to have the case re-opened and then finally and forever closed on the basis of this scenario. The reconstruction, as I said above, seems mainly geared to appease the Critics and thus end the whole Dallas assassination question.